AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This complete set of claims excludes cancelled claims 3 and 17 and includes amended claims 1, 4, 5, 16, 25, and 27.

1. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly for releasably affixing at least two leads to an implantable medical device, each of the leads comprising a lead body, the connector assembly comprising:

a single side clamp having [[a]] first longitudinally bisected channels with [[a]] first surfaces;

a support having a side recess and [[a]] second longitudinally bisected channels with [[a]] second surfaces, the side recess to receive the side clamp such that the first surfaces are confrontally disposed with the second surfaces to define longitudinally extending ports, the longitudinally extending ports to receive proximal end portions of the at least two lead bodies; and

a fastener received by the support to urge the side clamp toward the support and to clamp the proximal end portions of the at least two lead bodies between the first surfaces and the second surfaces;

wherein the side clamp has an outer surface that forms an outer surface of the connector assembly when the side recess receives the side clamp.

2. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly of claim 1 in which:

the confronting surfaces on the side clamp and the support define at least two ports.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The connector assembly of claim ~~3~~ 1 in which:

the confronting channels are symmetrically disposed about a plane of symmetry.

5. (Currently Amended) The connector assembly of claim ~~3~~ 1 in which:
one of the channels is larger in cross section than the other channel.

6. (Original) The connector assembly of claim 1 in which:
the support comprises a molded part.

7. (Original) The connector assembly of claim 1 in which:
the side clamp comprises a molded part.

8. (Original) The connector assembly of claim 1 in which:
the fastener extends through the side clamp and is threadedly received by the support.

9. (Original) The connector assembly of claim 8 in which:
the support carries a retainer for inhibiting the removal of the fastener from the support.

10. (Original) The connector assembly of claim 9 in which:
the fastener comprises a threaded end including at least one notch extending along the length of the threaded end; and
the retainer has a central opening configured to permit the threaded end of the fastener to be withdrawn through the retainer when the fastener and retainer have a predetermined angular alignment.

11. (Original) The connector assembly of claim 9 in which:
the fastener comprises a threaded end; and
the retainer comprises internal threads matching the threads on the fastener end.

12. (Original) The connector assembly of claim 1 in which:

the fastener extends through the side clamp and is threadedly received by an insert carried by the support.

13. (Original) The connector assembly of claim 12 in which:

the support comprises a molded part and the insert is comolded with the support.

14. (Previously Cancelled)

15. (Original) The connector assembly of claim 1 further comprising:

a top clamp defining with said support confronting surfaces configured to receive the proximal end portion of an additional lead body; and

a fastener adapted to be received by the support for urging the top clamp toward the support and for clamping the proximal end portion of the additional lead body between the confronting surfaces defined by the top clamp and the support.

16. (Currently Amended) An implantable medical device system comprising:

at least two implantable leads, each of the at least two implantable leads comprising a lead body having a proximal end portion carrying at least one electrical terminal, the at least one electrical terminal electrically coupled to an electronic circuitry;

a sealed casing;

the electronic circuitry within the casing, the at least one electrical terminal of the at least two implantable leads electrically coupled to the electronic circuitry; and

a connector assembly attached to the casing to releasably affix the at least two leads, the connector assembly comprising:

at least two receptacles to receive the proximal end portion of the at least two lead bodies, each of the at least two receptacles carrying an electrical contact positioned to engage the at least one electrical terminal, the at least two receptacles comprising a first port and a second port defined by a support and a single side clamp; and

a fastener received by the support to urge the side clamp toward said support ~~clamping~~ and to clamp the proximal end portions of the at least two lead bodies within the first port and the second port;

wherein the single side clamp ~~having a~~ has first longitudinally bisected channels with [[a]] first surfaces; and

wherein the support ~~having~~ has a side recess and [[a]] second longitudinally bisected channels with [[a]] second surfaces, the side recess to receive the side clamp such that the first surfaces are confrontally disposed with the second surfaces to define longitudinally extending ports, the longitudinally extending ports to receive proximal end portions of the at least two lead bodies; and

wherein the side clamp has an outer surface that forms an outer surface of the connector assembly when the side recess receives the side clamp.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device system of claim 16 in which:

one of the at least two receptacles is configured to receive the proximal end portion of a pacing and/or sensing lead.

19. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device system of claim 16 in which:

one of the at least two receptacles is configured to receive the proximal end portion of a cardioverting and/or defibrillating lead.

20. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device system of claim 16 in which:

the fastener comprises a screw extending through the side clamp and threadedly received by the support.

21. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device system of claim 20 in which:

the support includes a retainer for inhibiting the removal of the fastener from the support when the screw is loosened to release the proximal end portion of the at least two lead bodies.

22. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device system of claim 21 in which:

the fastener comprises a threaded end including at least one notch extending along the length of the threaded end; and

the retainer has a central opening configured to permit the threaded end of the fastener to be withdrawn through the retainer when the fastener and retainer have a predetermined angular alignment.

23. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device system of claim 21 in which:

the fastener comprises a threaded end; and

the retainer comprises internal threads matching the threads on the fastener end.

24. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device system of claim 16 in which:

a top clamp defining with said support confronting surfaces configured to receive the proximal end portion of an additional lead body; and

a fastener adapted to be received by the support for urging the top clamp toward the support and for clamping the proximal end portion of the additional lead body between the confronting surfaces defined by the top clamp and the support.

25. (Currently Amended) An implantable medical device comprising:

a sealed casing;

an electronic circuitry enclosed within said casing; and

a connector assembly attached to the outside of said casing for releasably affixing at least two leads, each lead comprising a lead body having a proximal end portion carrying at least one electrical terminal and for electrically coupling the at least one electrical terminal to the electronic circuitry, the connector assembly comprising:

a support;

a single side clamp defining with said support confronting surfaces configured to receive the proximal end portion of the lead bodies; and

a fastener received by the support to urge the side clamp toward the support and ~~clamping~~ to clamp the proximal end portions of the lead bodies between said confronting surfaces;

wherein the single side clamp ~~having a~~ has first longitudinally bisected channels with [[a]] first surfaces; and

wherein the support ~~having~~ has a side recess and [[a]] second longitudinally bisected channels with [[a]] second surfaces, the side recess to receive the side clamp such that the first surfaces are confrontally disposed with the second surfaces to define longitudinally extending ports, the longitudinally extending ports to receive proximal end portions of the at least two lead bodies; and

wherein the side clamp has an outer surface that forms an outer surface of the connector assembly when the side recess receives the side clamp.

26. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly of claim 2 in which:

the at least two ports have distal ends extending to an outer surface of the connector assembly; and

the confronting surfaces on the side clamp extend to the distal ends of the at least two ports.

27. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device system of claim ~~17~~ 16 in which:

the first port and second port have distal ends extending to an outer surface of connector assembly; and

the confronting channels in the side clamp and the support extend to the distal ends of the first port and second port.

28. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device of claim 25 in which:

the confronting surfaces on the side clamp and the support define a first port and a second port;

the first port and the second port have distal ends extending to an outer surface of the connector assembly; and

the confronting surfaces on the side clamp extend to the distal ends of the first port and the second port.